

**II. General Remarks Concerning This Response**

Claims 1-31 and 41-45 are currently pending in this application; claims 1-25, 27-30, and 41-45 are finally rejected; and claims 26 and 31 remain objected to. Claims 1-25, 27-30, and 41-45 have been appealed, and claims 32-40 have been canceled herein.

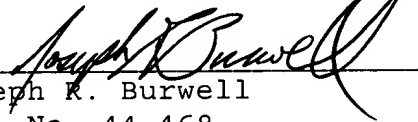
Claims 32-40 have been cancelled in order to file a continuation patent application to pursue an allowance of those claims while appealing the rejected claims.

**III. Conclusion**

For any other outstanding matters or issues, the examiner is urged to call or fax the below-listed telephone numbers to expedite the prosecution and examination of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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